

**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
of the Regular Board Meeting**

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

PRESENT:

Members: In Person: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, E. Crowe, J. DiMeo, M. Iafrate, A. Grella,
A. Saggese, J. Wigston
Virtual: N/A

Administration: In Person: J. De Faveri, J. Sarna, R. Antunes, A. Battick, M. Brosens, J. Chiutsi,
G. De Girolamo, K. Elgharbawy, A. Iafrate, T. Laliberte, C. McNeil,
S. Morrow, L. Paonessa, J. Powers, L. Sawicky, S. Wright,
K. Scanlon, T. Steenhoek, J. Tsui
Virtual: N/A

Absent with Notice: Trustee C. Cotton, Student Trustees M. Galstyan and S. Cuesta

Approved Absence: Trustee T. McNicol

Recording Officer: S. Greco (In Person)

Presiding: E. Crowe, Chair of the Board

2025:121 OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe, welcomed everyone to the Regular Board meeting at 7:33 pm and welcomed the Faith Ambassadors to lead the prayer followed by the Land Acknowledgement.

2025:122 ROLL CALL:

Trustee C. Cotton and Student Trustees M. Galstyan & S. Cuesta - Absent with Notice
Trustee T. McNicol - Approved Absence

2025:123 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:

Delegation: Budget and MYFRP Proposal

Delegation: MYFRP Budget

MOTION: Wigston/Saggese

THAT the new material be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2025:124 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Remove: 13a Recognition - Caribou Math Contest Winner

Remove: 16e Stouffville Boundary Amendments

MOTION: Iafrate/Barbieri

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2025:125 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL

2025:126 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2025:127 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Regular Board Meeting of December 17, 2024

Special Board Meeting of December 20, 2024

Special Board Meeting of January 21, 2025

MOTION: DiMeo/Barbieri

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 17, 2024, Special Board Meeting of December 20, 2024 and Special Board Meeting of January 21, 2025 be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2025:128 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**2025:129 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, provided the Chair's Report as part of the January 28, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included Black Heritage Month, Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association AGM, Official Renaming of Blessed Scalabrini Catholic School, Annual Episcopal Board Meeting, St. Andre Bessette Parish Soil Turning, York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and Best Buddies Dance.

2025:130 OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

Trustee Jennifer Wigston OCSTA Regional Director, representing York Catholic District School Board, indicated that in lieu of a OCSTA Board of Director's update, Trustees were asked to refer to the January 24, 2025 email with the link to the OCSTA Newsletter. The newsletter will be added to the Board minutes.

2025:131 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ UPDATE:

Director of Education, J. De Faveri, provided his Director's Report in the January 28, 2025 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included Employment Equity Audit, Black Heritage Month Conference, Secondary Exams, Let's Talk Day, Italian ETwinning Program at St. Gregory the Great CA and "Learnit" Podcast.

2025:132 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:

Student Trustees Monica Galstyan and Sabine Cuesta provided their Student Trustee Report to Board in the January 28, 2025 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included Christmas Break, Semester 1 Exam Season and OCSTA Trustee Seminar 2025.

2025:133 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: NIL**2025:134 DELEGATIONS: (Chair Crowe read an introductory statement)****a) Budget and MYFRP Proposal**

Mike Totten, President of York Catholic Teachers, spoke regarding the Board's MYFRP plan.

b) MYFRP Budget

N. Mikkelsen, ILIT Teacher, spoke about the Board's MYFRP and the impact on discontinuing the ILIT program.

2025:135 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:**a) Black Excellence Coach Program Presentation**

S. Abate, Principal of Holy Cross CA and J. Heinrich, Principal of Our Lady Queen of the World CA, introduced a video that highlighted the Black Excellence Coach Program at YCDSB. The program promotes equity and helps remove barriers within classrooms and school communities. It also provides a positive impact on students overall well-being and promotes academic achievement and enhanced post-secondary pathways for Black Students.

b) Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board provided a high level overview of the MYFRP requirement, process as well as the financial overview and recap of ongoing challenges. The provincial government has mandated the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) enter a Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP), which will bring the Board to a balanced budget by the 2026-27 school year. Appreciation was extended to the Board of Trustees, Senior Team and the Finance Team.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board was asked a question asking what would happen if the Board doesn't approve the MYFRP, to which he responded that there are progressive stages that would ultimately lead to the Ministry taking control of the Board if the budget is not balanced, and that the Ministry typically focuses on aligning expenses with funding to balance the budget.

2025:136 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)**a) APPROVAL OF MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN (MYFRP)**

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board presented, for approval the Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan.

MOTION: Alexander/lafrate

THAT the Board approve the Multi Year Financial Recovery Plan, which projects an in-year deficit of \$10,542K in 2025-26, an in-year surplus of \$422K in 2026-27 and an in-year surplus of \$670K in 2027-28.

- MOTION CARRIED -

Opposed: A. Grella

Chair Crowe remarked as follows:

I want to thank the Board of Trustees and Senior Team of the York Catholic District School Board for their work on this Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan. I know this has not been easy. I also want to thank the YCDSB's staff, students, and families for their support and understanding as we go through this process.

No one wants to be in a position where budget cuts are necessary, but the provincial government has mandated that we return to a balanced budget for the long-term benefit of our school board. Our financial position was unsustainable and the Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring the financial well-being of the YCDSB so that another generation of students can have an excellent educational experience at York Catholic. As proven this evening, this Board of Trustees will take all reasonable steps necessary to protect the YCDSB's financial health. With that said, the Board of Trustees has instructed Director De Faveri to do everything possible to minimize any impact from the Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan on the board's day-to-day operations, particularly in our classrooms. Trustees especially wanted to ensure that our learners who need additional support will continue to receive the resources they require to thrive. The Board of Trustees asked many questions of the Senior Team regarding the proposed changes to Special Education programs, and we trust the staff's judgment that the needs of our exceptional learners will continue to be supported.

Also, this Financial Recovery Plan does not change the YCDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan commitments to promoting the Catholic faith, academic excellence, equity and inclusion, and well-being. These commitments are at the heart of what makes York Catholic a special place to learn and work.

b) USE OF LOTTERIES AND GAMES OF CHANCE FOR SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

J. De Faveri, Director of Education, Foundation Chair and Secretary of the Board and J. Sarna, Associate Director shared information with respect to the use of lotteries and games of chance for school fundraising at YCDSB. Director DeFaveri explained three elements need to be present according to the AGCO, and Municipal By-Laws: a prize of a monetary value, payment, and an element of chance. If all three things are present, then it is considered a lottery and regulations are in place. There has to be payment to be considered a lottery scheme. J. Sarna will prepare a guideline for principals and bring updates to appropriate policies to the Policy Review Committee. It was noted that the rules will apply for all schools and any community use of school permits, including parishes.

MOTION: Alexander/DiMeo

THAT the practice of using lotteries and games of chance be immediately halted in all YCDSB environments in order to protect the YCDSB as an organization and the individuals working, visiting or renting the facilities, from possible exposure to fines and penalties under the Criminal Code of Canada.

THAT the policies that include clauses with respect to games of chance and fundraising (#616 Community Use of Schools, #603B Fundraising for External Charitable Purposes, #603 School Fundraising, #606 Catholic School Councils), be reviewed and revised to ensure that the language reflects alignment with the legislation and guidelines from the AGCO, the Criminal Code of Canada and the local Municipalities.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

c) APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISORY OFFICER TO S.A.L. COMMITTEE

J. De Faveri, Director of Education, Foundation Chair and Secretary of the Board presented, for approval, the appointment of a Supervisory Officer to Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee.

MOTION: Iafrate/Wigston

THAT the Board approve the appointment of Joel Chiutsi as the Supervisory Officer responsible for the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

d) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2025:02 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, A. Grella, presented for receipt, Report No. 2025:02 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on January 13, 2025.

MOTION: Grella/DiMeo

THAT Report No. 2025:02 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on January 13, 2025, be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

e) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2025:02 YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Member, M. Iafrate, presented for receipt, Report No. 2025:02 of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on January 20, 2025.

MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese

THAT Report No. 2025:02 of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on January 20, 2025, be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

2025:137

DISCUSSION ITEM(S):**a) TRUSTEE MOTION: Audit of YCDSB Purchasing Credit Cards (PCards)
(E. Crowe, M. Iafrate)**

Whereas *the York Catholic District School Board is in a deficit and controls need to be in place to ensure that spending is focussed on the classroom while at the same time getting the best value for money;*

Whereas *spending of Trustees and the Senior Team is being reviewed by RIAT, including the use of PCards;*

Whereas *transparency and accountability is of paramount importance and an external review of all remaining PCards in the system would help to ensure proper usage and provide additional systemic recommendations for improvement, including the enforcement of spending limits.*

LET IT BE RESOLVED:

THAT *an outside accounting firm be hired to perform a full audit of PCards not included in the RIAT audit, including a review of any controls currently in place;*

THAT *the review include recommendations for any changes in policy and/or procedure needed to ensure transparency, accountability and compliance;*

THAT *the review include a recommendation on whether or not the number of PCards in the system should be reduced;*

THAT *once the recommendations are implemented, training for proper usage of PCards take place once a year with all holders.*

There was no discussion. This Motion will be an Action Item on the February 25, 2025 Regular Board Agenda.

2025:138

INFORMATION ITEM(S):**a) Receipt of Employment Equity Audit Report**

J. De Faveri, Director of Education, Foundation Chair and Secretary of the Board the results of the Employment Equity Audit contracted with Turner Consulting Group. A copy of the template that will be used for the creation of an implementation plan of the recommendations was provided. The Board of Trustees acknowledged the work of S. Wright, Superintendent of Education: Inviting and Inclusive Schools.

b) 2023-2024 Trustee Expenditures Report

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board shared a report on Trustee Expenditures for the period from November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024. This information will be posted on the Board's website, as per *Policy 111 Trustee Services and Expenditures*.

c) Semi-Annual Development Report

G. De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager of Planning and Operations shared a summary of major development applications received during the period of June 2024 to January 2025. The report included a summary of new development applications exceeding 100 low density and 250 high density units as well as reporting of all development within Urban Growth Centres.

d) Progress Report on Air Conditioning Plan for Elementary Schools

K. Elgharbawy, Superintendent of Facilities Services and Plant provided an interim report on the work being done in response to the December 2024 motion:

THAT staff investigate and report back to the Board of Trustees with an estimated financial outlay and timeframe required to equip all elementary YCDSB classrooms with air-conditioning.

A final report will be submitted at the April 29, 2025 Board meeting.

e) February 2025 Calendar

The February 2025 calendar was provided.

2025:139 NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL

2025:140 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

RECESS AT 8:39 PM TO RECONVENE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

RESUME REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 10:20 PM

2025:141 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports) - Continued:

APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2025:05 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Vice-Chair Maria lafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2025:05 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on January 28, 2025.

(i) DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval): N/A

(ii) CLASSIFIED:

MOTION: lafrate/Saggese

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held January 28, 2025, be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2025:142 PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

**2025:143 ADJOURNMENT – 10:22 pm
ON MOTION: lafrate/Grella and CARRIED**

Secretary of the Board

Chair of the Board